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about 20 to about 50% wt starch,
0 to about 40% wt fat or oil,
about 8 to about 50% wt [polyhydric] polyhydric alcohol,
sugar, and
at least about 5% wt water

said carrier having an A_w of about 0.60 to about 0.75, and a soft and chewy texture, and said A_w is variable dependent on the properties of the additive.

12. (twice amended) A method of making a carrier for an additive for use in an oral administration of a therapeutically effective amount of an additive in discrete dosage form, comprising the steps of

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- a) forming a matrix by mixing
about 10 to about 50% wt starch,
0 to about 40% wt fat or oil,
about 10 to about 50% wt polyhydric alcohol,
sugar, and
at least about 5% wt water,

adding said additive to said matrix and mixing;

adjusting the relative amounts of polyhydric alcohol and water to control the A_w of said carrier to adjust the level of moisture in the carrier to be a level not inimical to the additive and extruding said

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carrier and additive to form an extrudate.

Please add the following new claims 26-28.

26. A carrier for the oral administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical additive to mammals in a discrete dosage form, said carrier comprising:

an extrudate having a matrix, and including:

10-50% starch,

0-40% fat or oil,

8-50% polyhydric alcohol,

sugar, and

at least about 5% water,

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said carrier having an A_w of about 0.60 to about 0.75, and a soft and chewy texture, and said A_w is variable dependent on the properties of the additive.

27. A method for the oral administration of a therapeutically-effective amount of an additive selected from the group consisting of pharmaceuticals, nutritionals, vitamins and minerals, and mixtures thereof to a mammal in need thereof comprising

(a) providing an oral dosage form comprising a therapeutically-effective amount of an additive selected from the group consisting of pharmaceuticals, nutritionals, vitamins and minerals, and mixtures thereof and a carrier comprising an extrudate having about 10 to about 50 wt.% starch, 0 to about 40 wt.% fat or oil, about 8 to about 50 wt.% polyhydric alcohol, sugar, and at least about 5 wt.% water, and